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EXAMINER	
HASHEM, LISA	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2614	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/089,405	HAUMONT, SERGE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lisa Hashem	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 August 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-22 and 24-32* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-22 and 24-32* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see RCE, filed 8-9-07, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 3-22, and 24-32 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made. Please see the rejection(s) below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 13 recites the limitations "the first access point name" and "the second access point name". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 21, 22, 24, 29, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,628,954 by McGowan et al, hereinafter McGowan (this patent has a priority date of Sep. 7, 1999 based on provisional application no. 60/152,695; the disclosed invention in the provisional application is the same as the patent).

Regarding claim 21, McGowan discloses a network node (i.e. GGSN) (Fig. 2, 216) in a communication system (Fig. 2) providing a subscription (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 11), wherein the network node is arranged to receive from the communication system an indication indicating the use of a certain set of services from among at least two different sets of services (i.e. pre-paid data services and QoS or other data services) defined for the subscription, each set of said at least two different sets of services defining services accessible via the subscription and the indication of the set of services being received as an access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com' or 'www.abc-isp.com') used in the communication system to define where and how to connect the user of the subscription, and in response to receiving the indication to provide access only to services included in the indicated certain set of services (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21; col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 32).

Regarding claim 22, a network node as claimed in claim 21, wherein McGowan discloses the network node is arranged, in response to receiving the indication, to inform the user of the subscription of the services accessible via the indicated certain set of services (col. 5, line 46 – col. 6, line 21; col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 32).

Regarding claim 24, a network node as claimed in claim 21, wherein McGowan discloses the network node is an application server (col. 4, lines 27-42).

Regarding claim 29, please see the rejection to claim 21, wherein McGowan discloses a processor comprising program code configuring a network element (e.g. GGSN) in a communication system (Fig. 2) (col. 4, lines 27-42).

Regarding claim 30, please see the rejection to claim 22.

Regarding claim 31, a processor as claimed in claim 29, wherein McGowan further comprising program code configuring the network element to receive an access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com' or 'www.abc-isp.com') as the indication of the set of services, the access point name being used in the communication system to define where and how to connect the user of the subscription (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21; col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 4-10, 13, 14, 17-20, 25-28, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGowan.

Regarding claim 1, McGowan discloses a method comprising:

determining services accessible via a subscription having an account and at least a first limit (i.e. sufficient account balance) in a communication system (Fig. 2);

defining at least a first set of services (i.e. pre-paid data services) and a second set of services (i.e. QoS or other data services) to be used with the subscription, each set of services defining services accessible via the subscription (col. 4, lines 43-55; col. 5, lines 46-56);

using in the communication system access point names to define where and how to connect the user of the subscription;

defining a first access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') for the first set of services;

defining a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') for the second set of services;

comparing the balance of the account with the first limit;

selecting an access point name to be used with this connection in response to the result of the comparison;

selecting the first access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') when the balance of the account does not reach the first limit (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21); and

terminating the connection when the balance reaches the first limit.

McGowan discloses defining a first access point name and a second access point name for a first and second set of services, respectively. McGowan does not disclose selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. However, McGowan discloses a subscriber utilizing a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') to access a data service that is not associated with a first limit, therefore, the method allows the subscriber to access the second access point name when the subscriber does not need to connect to a pre-paid data service.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the method of McGowan selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a subscriber access to non pre-paid data services that a subscriber can utilize without having a sufficient account balance.

Regarding claim 4, a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein McGowan discloses the method further comprising defining accessible services via a set of services by defining at least a range of allowed addresses for the set of services (col. 5, lines 33-45).

Regarding claim 5, a method as claimed in claim l, wherein McGowan discloses the method further comprising the step of indicating the set of services which is to be used by charging characteristics to be applied (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21; col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 42).

Regarding claim 6, a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein McGowan discloses the second set of services comprising services free of charge (col. 5, lines 33-45).

Regarding claim 7, a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein McGowan further discloses the second set of services being a subset of the first set of services (i.e. data services) (col. 5, lines 33-45).

Regarding claim 8, a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein McGowan further discloses the method further comprising informing the user of the subscription of the services accessible via the second set of services in response to using the second set of services (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 11).

Regarding claim 9, a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein McGowan discloses the subscription is a postpaid subscription (i.e. subscriber can pay after data session has started); the first limit is the maximum allowed amount of the bill (i.e. pre-defined threshold account balance); and
the balance of the account indicates the amount of the bill to be charged from the subscription (i.e. minimum amount that is needed for pre-paid data services) (col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 42).

Regarding claim 10, a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein McGowan discloses the subscription is a prepaid subscription (col. 5, lines 46-65);
the first limit is the preset minimum value for the account (i.e. sufficient account balance); and the balance of the account indicates the amount of money the subscriber still has in use (i.e. account balance of the subscriber) (col. 1, lines 26-36; col. 7, lines 20-22).

Regarding claim 13, McGowan discloses a communication system (Fig. 2) providing a subscription with an account and at least a first limit (i.e. sufficient account balance), the communication system comprising:
a first node (i.e. SCP) monitoring the balance of the account, wherein:

the communication system comprises memory for storing definitions of at least a first set of services (i.e. pre-paid data services) and a second set of services (i.e. QoS or other data services) to be used with the subscription (col. 4, lines 43-55; col. 5, lines 46-56),

each set of services defining services accessible via the subscription (col. 4, lines 43-55; col. 5, lines 46-56); and

the communication system is arranged to compare the balance of the account with the first limit, select an access point name to be used with this connection in response to the result of the comparison, select the first access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') when the balance of the account does not reach the first limit (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21).

McGowan discloses defining a first access point name and a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') for a first and second set of services, respectively. McGowan does not disclose selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. However, McGowan discloses a subscriber utilizing a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') to access a data service that is not associated with a first limit, therefore, the method allows the subscriber to access the second access point name when the subscriber does not need to connect to a pre-paid data service.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the system of McGowan selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a subscriber access to non pre-paid data services that a subscriber can utilize without having a sufficient account balance.

Regarding claim 14, a communication system as claimed in claim 13, wherein: McGowan discloses the first node is arranged to perform the comparison during connection activation and to indicate which set of services is to be used with the connection; and in response to a connection with access to the first set of services to trigger deactivation of the connection when the balance reaches the first limit (col. 5, lines 32-65; col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 32).

Regarding claim 17, a communication system as claimed in claim 13, wherein: McGowan discloses the communication system supports the General Packet Radio Service; and the connection is activated by activating a PDP context (col. 4, line 56 – col. 5, line 11).

Regarding claim 18, McGowan discloses a network node (i.e. SCP) (Fig. 2: 212) in a communication system (Fig. 2) providing a subscription with an account and at least a first limit (i.e. sufficient account balance), the network node being arranged to use access point names to define where and how to connect the user of the subscription and monitor the balance of the account (col. 1, lines 26-36; col. 4, lines 43-55; col. 5, lines 33-56), wherein: the network node is arranged to associate a first access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') with a first set of services (i.e. pre-paid data services), and a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') with the second set of services (i.e. QoS or other data services), both sets of services defining services accessible via the subscription; compare the balance of the account with the first limit; select an access point name to be used with this connection in response to the result of the comparison; select the first access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') when the balance of the account does not reach the first limit (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21).

McGowan discloses defining a first access point name and a second access point name for a first and second set of services, respectively. McGowan does not disclose selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. However, McGowan discloses a subscriber utilizing a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') to access a data service that is not associated with a first limit, therefore, the method allows the subscriber to access the second access point name when the subscriber does not need to connect to a pre-paid data service.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the network node of McGowan selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a subscriber access to non pre-paid data services that a subscriber can utilize without having a sufficient account balance.

Regarding claim 19, McGowan discloses a network node (i.e. SCP) (Fig. 2: 212) in a communication system (Fig. 2) providing a subscription with an account (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 11) and at least a first limit (i.e. sufficient account balance) (col. 1, lines 26-36), the network node being arranged to monitor the balance of the account, wherein: the network node is arranged to associate a first access point name (i.e. 'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') with a first set of services (i.e. pre-paid data services) and a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') with the second set of services (i.e. QoS or other data services), both sets of services accessible via the subscription; communicate with a second network node (i.e. GGSN), compare the balance of the account with the first limit, select an access point name to be used with this connection in response to the result of the comparison, select the first access point name (i.e.

'www.prepaid-abc-isp.com') when the balance of the account does not reach the first limit, and indicate to the second network node the selected access point name (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21).

McGowan discloses defining a first access point name and a second access point name for a first and second set of services, respectively. McGowan does not disclose selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. However, McGowan discloses a subscriber utilizing a second access point name (i.e. 'www.abc-isp.com') to access a data service that is not associated with a first limit, therefore, the method allows the subscriber to access the second access point name when the subscriber does not need to connect to a pre-paid data service.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the network node of McGowan selecting the second access point name when the balance reaches the first limit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a subscriber access to non pre-paid data services that a subscriber can utilize without having a sufficient account balance.

Regarding claim 20, a network node as claimed in claim 19, wherein McGowan discloses the network node is arranged to indicate the selected access point name in response to the balance reaching the limit and in response to the balance not any more reaching the limit (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21).

Regarding claim 25, McGowan discloses a method of determining services accessible via a subscription having an account (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 11) and at least a predetermined first limit (i.e. sufficient account balance) in a communication system (Fig. 2),

the method comprising:

maintaining definitions of at least a first set of services (i.e. pre-paid data services) and a second set of services (i.e. QoS or other data services) to be used with the subscription, each set of services defining services accessible via the subscription (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 11),

the second set of services being a subset of the first set of services (i.e. data services) and comprising services (i.e. accessing an ISP network) which are not charged from the subscriber (col. 5, lines 33-45);

comparing during connection activation, the balance of the account with the first limit;

deciding, during connection activation and on the basis of the comparison, which set of services, among said at least the first set of services and the second set of services, can be used (col. 5, lines 33-45);

using the first set of services when the balance of the account does not reach the first limit (e.g. sufficient account balance) (col. 5, lines 46-56).

McGowan discloses a first and second set of services. McGowan does not disclose using the second set of services when the balance reaches the first limit. However, McGowan discloses a subscriber accessing a data service that is not associated with a first limit, therefore, the method allows the subscriber to access the second set of services when the subscriber does not need to connect to a pre-paid data service.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the method of McGowan using the second set of services when the balance reaches the first limit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such

a modification to provide a subscriber access to non pre-paid data services that a subscriber can utilize without having a sufficient account balance.

Regarding claim 26, please see the rejection to claim 18 to reject claim 26, wherein McGowan discloses a processor comprising program code configuring a network element (i.e. SCP) in a communication system (col. 4, lines 27-42).

Regarding claim 27, please see the rejection to claim 19 to reject claim 27, wherein McGowan discloses a processor comprising program code configuring a network element (i.e. SCP) in a communication system (col. 4, lines 27-42).

Regarding claim 28, a processor as claimed in claim 27, wherein McGowan discloses further comprising program code configuring the network element to indicate the allowed set of services in response to the balance reaching the limit and in response to the balance not any more reaching the limit (col. 5, line 33 – col. 6, line 21).

Regarding claim 32, please see the rejection to claim 1, wherein McGowan discloses a computer readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process (col. 4, lines 27-42) for determining services accessible via a subscription having an account (col. 4, line 43 – col. 5, line 11) and at least a first limit (i.e. sufficient account balance) (col. 1, lines 26-36) in a communication system (Fig. 2).

8. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGowan, as applied to claim 1, in view of Sjodin.

Regarding claim 3, a method as claimed in claim l, wherein McGowan does not disclose a firewall.

Sjodin discloses a method of determining services accessible via a subscription in a communication system (Fig. 1) (col. 7, lines 47-54), the method further comprising: the communication system comprising a firewall (e.g. a system designed to prevent un-authorized access to or from a private network); and

defining accessible services via a set of services by defining at least a firewall configuration for the set of services (col. 7, lines 47-54; col. 10, lines 53-61; col. 11, lines 8-40; col. 13, line 17 – col. 14, line 41).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of McGowan to include a firewall as taught by Sjodin. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a restrictive screening policy in order to restrict access of a certain application.

9. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGowan, as applied to claim 1, in view of Hartmaier.

Regarding claim 11, a method as claimed in claim 10, wherein McGowan does not disclose at least the second set of services comprises a deposition service.

Hartmaier discloses a method of determining services accessible via a subscription having an account (e.g. pre-paid subscriber account) and at least a first limit (e.g. predetermined minimum account threshold) in a communication system (Fig. 1) (see Abstract; col. 2, lines 8-32; col. 2, lines 49-53; col. 10, lines 5-39);

defining at least a first set of services (e.g. telephony services) and a second set of services (e.g. replenishment of the account, calls with special rates) (col. 8, line 18 – col. 9, line 25; col. 10, lines 5-39);

comparing the balance of the account with the first limit (col. 2, lines 17-32; col. 5, lines 4-18; col. 7, line 54 – col. 8, line 34);

using the first set of services (e.g. making or receiving a call) when the balance of the account does not reach the first limit (e.g. sufficient account balance) (col. 5, lines 4-18; col. 8, line 35 – col. 9, line 25); and

using the second set of services (e.g. replenishment of the account, calls with special rates) when the balance reaches the first limit (e.g. threshold is reached) (col. 2, lines 17-32; col. 8, lines 18-34; col. 10, lines 21-32).

Wherein Hartmaier further discloses at least the second set of services comprises a deposition service (col. 2, lines 17-32; col. 7, line 54 – col. 8, line 34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of McGowan to include at least the second set of services comprises a deposition service as taught by Hartmaier. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a convenient way to deposit money in a subscriber's account.

Regarding claim 12, a method as claimed in claim 11, wherein Hartmaier further discloses the depositing service utilizes authentication of the communication system when authenticating the one who wants to deposit (col. 2, lines 27-32).

10. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGowan, as applied to claim 1, in view of Hartmaier.

Regarding claim 15, a communication system as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

McGowan discloses the communication system further comprises a second node (e.g. GGSN)

maintaining subscription information including at least an indication indicating an allowed set of services for the subscription; and the second node is arranged to send at least information on the allowed set of services as a part of the subscription information to the communication system during connection activation (col. 4, line 27 – col. 5, line 11); in response to a received direction from the first node to modify the first indication to correspond to the received direction; and in response to modifying the allowed set of services of an active connection to trigger deactivation of the connection (col. 5, lines 32-65; col. 6, line 45 – col. 7, line 32).

McGowan does not disclose the first node is arranged to perform the comparison and in response to the balance reaching the first limit to direct the second node to set the second set of services as the allowed set of services and in response to the balance, not any more reaching the first limit after reaching the first limit, to direct the second node to set the first set of services as the allowed set of services.

Hartmaier discloses a communication system (Fig. 1) providing a subscription with an account (e.g. pre-paid subscriber account) and at least a first limit (e.g. predetermined minimum account threshold) (see Abstract; col. 2, lines 8-32; col. 2, lines 49-53; col. 10, lines 5-39),
the communication system (Fig. 1) comprising:
a first node (e.g. SCP with call monitoring module) monitoring the balance of the account (col. 2, lines 17-32; col. 5, lines 4-18; col. 7, line 54 – col. 8, line 34),
wherein: the communication system comprises memory for storing definitions of at least a first set of services (e.g. telephony services) and a second set of services (e.g. replenishment of the account, calls with special rates) to be used with the subscription (col. 8, line 18 – col. 9, line 25; col. 10, lines 5-39),

each set of services defining services accessible via the subscription (col. 8, line 18 – col. 9, line 25; col. 10, lines 5-39); and

the communication system is arranged to compare the balance with the first limit and to allow access to the first set of services (e.g. making a call or receiving a call) when the balance has not reached the first limit (e.g. sufficient account balance) (col. 5, lines 4-18; col. 8, line 35 – col. 9, line 25), and

to allow access to the second set of services (e.g. replenishment of the account, calls with special rates) when the balance has reached the first limit (e.g. threshold is reached) (col. 2, lines 17-32; col. 8, lines 18-34; col. 10, lines 21-32).

Wherein: Hartmaier further discloses the communication system further comprises a second node (e.g. MSC) maintaining subscription information including at least an indication indicating an allowed set of services for the subscription (col. 3, lines 54-63; col. 4, lines 9-28; col. 5, lines 1-18; col. 10, lines 5-17);

the first node is arranged to perform the comparison and in response to the balance reaching the first limit to direct the second node to set the second set of services as the allowed set of services and in response to the balance, not any more reaching the first limit after reaching the first limit, to direct the second node to set the first set of services as the allowed set of services (col. 7, line 54 – col. 8, line 34); and

the second node is arranged to send at least information on the allowed set of services as a part of the subscription information to the communication system during connection activation;

in response to a received direction from the first node to modify the first indication to correspond to the received direction; and in response to modifying the allowed set of services of an active

connection to trigger deactivation of the connection (col. 5, lines 2-18; col. 7, line 54 – col. 8, line 34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of McGowan to include the first node is arranged to perform the comparison and in response to the balance reaching the first limit to direct the second node to set the second set of services as the allowed set of services and in response to the balance, not any more reaching the first limit after reaching the first limit, to direct the second node to set the first set of services as the allowed set of services as taught by Hartmaier. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide the second set of services as the allowed set of services if the first set of services is inaccessible due to a low balance.

Regarding claim 16, a communication system as claimed in claim 15, wherein Hartmaier further discloses the subscription information maintained in the second node further includes at least identification information on the first and second set of services and the indication indicates which one of the sets of services is the allowed set of services (col. 5, lines 2-18; col. 7, line 54 – col. 8, line 34).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 Form.

12. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or call:

(571) 272-2600 (for customer service assistance)

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Hashem whose telephone number is (571) 272-7542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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September 10, 2007

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